

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scanning system comprising:

a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion;
5 and

an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software for controlling scanning
10 of said print device,

wherein when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and a predetermined preparation is detected, said print device communicates with said external computer to start said scanner software.

15 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said print device is designed to send a scanner start signal to said external computer when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion, said scanner software comprises a detection module for detecting the
20 scanner start signal, said detection module alone in said scanner software is running in a standby state in which said printer device has not been started as a scanner, and modules other than said detection module in said scanner software are started when said
25 detection module detects the scanner start signal.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein when all the modules in said scanner software are running, said detection module uses a sufficiently small work area of said external computer compared to other modules.

5 4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said print head is an ink-jet print head.

5. A scanning system comprising:

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a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a
10 print head and scan head on a head mounting portion;
and

an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software for controlling scanning
15 operation of said print device,

wherein when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an original is set on said print device, said print device communicates with said external computer to start said software.

20 6. The system according to claim 5, wherein said print device is designed to send a scanner start signal to said external computer when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion, said scanner software comprises a detection module for detecting the
25 scanner start signal, said detection module alone in said scanner software is running in a standby state in

which said printer device has not been started as a scanner, and modules other than said detection module in said scanner software are started when said detection module detects the scanner start signal.

5 7. The system according to claim 6, wherein when all the modules in said scanner software are running, said detection module uses a sufficiently small work area of said external computer compared to other modules.

8. The system according to claim 5, wherein said
10 print head is an ink-jet print head.

9. The system according to claim 5, further comprising prescan selection means for selecting whether or not a prescan is made upon scanning the original, and wherein when said scanner software is
15 started and it is selected by said prescan selection means that the prescan is to be made, an image of the original is prescanned and read into said scanner software.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein said
20 scanner software displays the prescanned and read image.

11. A scanning system comprising:

a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion;

25 and

an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software which can control scanning of said print device, and an application software which
5 can edit an image scanned from said print device,

wherein when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an original is set on said print device and said application software is running, said print device communicates with said external
10 computer to start said scanner software, to read an image of the original into said scanner software, and to transfer the read image to said application software.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein said print device is designed to send a scanner start signal
15 to said external computer when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion, said scanner software comprises a detection module for detecting the scanner start signal, said detection module alone in said scanner software is running in a standby state in
20 which said printer device has not been started as a scanner, and modules other than said detection module in said scanner software are started when said detection module detects the scanner start signal.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein when
25 all the modules in said scanner software are running, said detection module uses a sufficiently small work

area of said external computer compared to other modules.

14. The system according to claim 11, wherein said print head is an ink-jet print head.

5 15. The system according to claim 11, further comprising prescan selection means for selecting whether or not a prescan is made upon scanning the original, and wherein when said scanner software is started and it is selected by said prescan selection
10 means that the prescan is to be made, an image of the original is prescanned and read into said scanner software.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said scanner software displays the prescanned and read image.

15 17. The system according to claim 11, wherein said scanner software comprises application software run detection means for detecting whether or not said application software is running.

18. A method of controlling a scanning system, which
20 comprises a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and
25 comprises a scanner software which can control scanning of said print device, comprising the step of:

controlling said print device to communicate with
said external computer so as to start said scanner
software, when said scan head is mounted on said head
mounting portion and a predetermined preparation is
5 detected.

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19. A method of controlling a scanning system, which
comprises a print device with a scanner function, which
allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a
print head and scan head on a head mounting portion,
10 and an external computer which is connected to said
print device to be able to communicate therewith, and
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning
of said print device, comprising the step of:

controlling said print device to communicate with
15 said external computer so as to start said scanner
software and to read an image of the original into said
scanner software, when said scan head is mounted on
said head mounting portion and an original is set on
said print device.

20 20. A method of controlling a scanning system, which
comprises a print device with a scanner function, which
allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a
print head and scan head on a head mounting portion,
and an external computer which is connected to said
25 print device to be able to communicate therewith, and
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning

of said print device, and an application software which can edit an image scanned from said print device, comprising the step of:

controlling said print device to communicate with
5 said external computer so as to start said scanner software, to read an image of the original into said scanner software, and to transfer the read image to said application, when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an original is prepared
10 on said print device and said application software is running.

21. A storage medium that stores a control program for controlling a scanning system, which comprises a print device with a scanner function, which allows
15 printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software which can control scanning
20 of said print device, said control program comprising:

a code of the step of controlling said print device to communicate with said external computer so as to start said scanner software, when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion.

22. A storage medium that stores a control program for controlling a scanning system, which comprises a

print device with a scanner function, which allows
printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print
head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an
external computer which is connected to said print
5 device to be able to communicate therewith, and
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning
of said print device, said control program comprising:

a code of the step of controlling said print
device to communicate with said external computer so as
10 to start said scanner software and to read an image of
the original into said scanner software, when said scan
head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an
original is set on said print device.

23. A storage medium that stores a control program
15 for controlling a scanning system, which comprises a
print device with a scanner function, which allows
printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print
head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an
external computer which is connected to said print
20 device to be able to communicate therewith, and
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning
of said print device, and an application software which
can edit an image scanned from said print device, said
control program comprising:

25 a code of the step of controlling said print
device to communicate with said external computer so as

to start said scanner software, to read an image of the
original into said scanner software, and to transfer
the read image to said application software, when said
scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and
5 an is set on said print device and said application
software is running.

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